

## Interstate 8/Imperial Avenue Interchange

December 2004

### ■ OVERALL GOALS

- Provide access from Imperial Avenue to existing and future development south Interstate 8 (I-8) and eliminate the current circuitous route and out of direction travel on city streets and county roads.
- Improve traffic safety and the operational deficiencies associated with the existing interchange.
- Reduce traffic congestion at Imperial Avenue and 4th Street interchanges on I-8 in the City of El Centro.

### ■ THE PROJECT

The project will reconstruct the interchange at Imperial Avenue and Interstate 8 (I-8). Currently there is no access on I-8 to the southern sections of Imperial Avenue. The reconstruction project will also install two ramps that will provide direct access to the southern sections of Imperial Avenue from I-8.

### ■ TRAFFIC

Traffic in the project area is primarily associated with interregional traffic on I-8 and traffic onto and from Imperial Avenue north of I-8. The Imperial Avenue interchange experiences congestion in the morning and afternoon hours. Today approximately 16,000 to 27,000 vehicles per day use this section on I-8. By 2025, traffic on this portion of I-8 is projected to almost double between 31,000 and 48,000 vehicles per day.

### ■ FUNDING

The estimated project cost is \$39 million. This includes the cost associated with designing the project, acquiring the needed right of way, and construction. While design and right of way phases have been programmed, the construction funds are not yet available.

### ■ ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

The Environmental Document was approved in June 2004.

### ■ SCHEDULE

While the completion of the Environmental Document, acquisition of critical properties has begun. Development of the design plans and specifications will be put on hold pending funding of the construction phase. The final project schedule cannot be determined until this programming action occurs. The next likely opportunity to gain funds would be the 2006 update to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

### ■ CONTACT

For more information on the project, contact Project Manager Ross Cather at (619) 688-3633.